

La Porte police make arrests in vandalism case; one still sought



Suspect

July 19, 2012 By Mike Gunning mike.guning@baytownsun.com

La Porte police have arrested two juvenile brothers, part of the gang of three half-dressed vandals who caused extensive damage at La Porte High School over the Independence Day holiday.

The incident was caught on video as the shirtless male suspects are seen walking up and down a hallway with their faces covered, then enter the pool area and vandalize the vicinity.

Officials said the vandals broke into the high school's indoor swimming pool around 1:25 a.m. on July 4 by breaking fiberglass window panels, causing damage to the building's exterior. Once inside, the suspects threw chairs, benches, tables, and other nearby accessories into the school pool.

Sgt. John Krueger, of the La Porte Police Department, said the video made all the difference.

"Fortunately, with their images being quite clear on the surveillance cameras, a Crime Stoppers posting of the event was quickly spotted by concerned residents," Krueger said. "As a result of Crime Stopper tips, and a detailed series of exploratory procedures by LPPD investigators, two of the males were promptly identified."

For Krueger, it was a shining moment for Crime Stoppers.

"This is one of those feel good moments about Crime Stoppers," Krueger said. "Crime Stoppers worked just like it was supposed to in this case."

Krueger said a combination of media coverage and concerned citizen involvement shut the door on the two juvenile brothers that caused over \$1,000 in damage during the rampage.

Krueger said he believed the arrest will lead to the closure of several other criminal mischief cases in the La Porte and Baytown area.

Krueger said it's a mystery why the brothers chose to destroy La Porte High School property, since neither of the boys appears to be students there. One of the brothers stated he lived with a parent in Baytown, while the other lives with his parent in La Porte. It is not known where the boys attend school, and their ages have not yet been released.

Police are still seeking information on the third suspect, who the brothers have only given minimum information on.

Anyone with additional information regarding this incident, or any other area crime, is encouraged to contact Houstonarea Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS (8477).